

60,426-628  
2001P10809US**REMARKS**

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks and analysis contained in Paper No. 7. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended. New claims 37-43 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-43 are pending.

Claims 1, and 22 claim a transit sign having a first housing having a first structure defined on a first surface and a second structure defined on a second surface, such that the first structure on the first housing can mate with a second structure on a second housing. *Boshear, et al.* (United States Patent No. 5,665,938) does not disclose a transit sign of multiple housings allowing the housings to mate together. *Boshear, et al.* does not disclose anything on the outer housing to facilitate the attachment of the two signs together. Independent claims 1 and 22 are not anticipated by *Boshear, et al.* and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Claims 2, 3, 8, 10-15 are dependent on claim 1 and are thus allowable. In addition, dependant claims 39-42 claim a groove for the first structure which corresponds to a tongue for the second structure in order to link the housings together. *Boshear, et al.* does not disclose a tongue and groove connection.

Claim 22 is allowable further because it claims attachment devices configured to secure the first housing to a sign post, where the attachment devices are hidden within the interior space of the transit sign. *Boshear, et al.* does not disclose attachment to a sign post of attachment devices which are hidden within the interior space of the transit sign. Therefore, independent claim 22 is patentable. Dependant claims 4-7, 16-18, 20, 21, 24-30 depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 22 and are therefore allowable.

Independent claim 32 is also allowable. Claim 32 claims a housing which allows for the mounting device to be accessed from the interior of the sign, only after one of the end caps have been removed. *Boshear, et al.*, *Tucker*, or *Dahl* do not disclose such a mounting structure. *Boshear et al.* discloses mounting holes which do not require the end caps to be removed in order to access them. The mounting holes in *Boshear, et al.* are accessible by removing the lens. Applicants design does not allow for the removal of the lens after the sign has been assembled without first removing an end cap. In *Tucker* the panels are mounted within a frame and these

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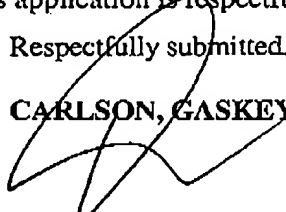
mounts are easily accessible from the exterior for removal and replacement of the panels. *Dahl* does not disclose a sign but a holder for a sign. The mounting for the sign holder is accessible from the exterior prior to the sign being mounted. Therefore independent claim 32 is allowable. Dependant claims 33-36 depend from allowable claim 32 and are thus allowable.

New independent claim 37 has been added and is allowable. Independent claim 37 claims a linking structure between the first and second housings that is not disclosed in the prior art. Further, claim 37 claims an overhang extending from the housing that is not disclosed in the prior art. Dependant claim 38 claims an overhang that extends outward from the sign. That is not disclosed in the prior art and is thus allowable.

Thus, claims 1-43 are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 50-1482 in the amount of \$212.00 for the additional one independent claim and seven claims in excess of twenty. If any additional fees are due the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.**

  
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